

13-1243

MOTION

As a Police Reserve Officer and Chair of the Public Safety Committee, I have seen first hand the increasingly transformative effect technology is having on policing. New camera technologies in particular are playing an expanding role in the day to day activities of police officers and proving to be a valuable tool in increasing their effectiveness, ensuring their safety, and resolving potentially controversial encounters.

In my meetings with Mayor Garcetti's Police Commissioner candidates, I shared my appreciation both for Chief Beck's strong support for the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Digital In-Car Video (DICV) program and his vision of having a camera system in every black and white in the Department. I share that vision.

However, not all officer activity happens within the DICV field of view. In addition, not every member of the department patrols in a black and white. LAPD units such as Metro, SWAT, and K-9 could also benefit from having camera technology as a tool. To that end, and in order to enhance the Department's DICV program, I shared with the Commission candidates my support for making on-officer camera technology another initiative for the Department.

Police Commission President Steve Soboroff was quick to share my enthusiasm for the project. I welcome his support and the support of the rest of the Police Commission in this endeavor. Most importantly, their policy direction is crucial in shaping any program the Department develops.

The City of Los Angeles is not alone in its interest in camera technology for its police officers, and the benefits of camera technology to policing is now being quantified. Early this year, a University of Cambridge study found that when police officers in Rialto, California were equipped with and required to wear body cameras, complaints against officers fell by 88 percent and the use of force dropped by almost 60 percent.

The Los Angeles Police Department also has seen the benefits of camera use in its implementation of Digital In-Car video. In fact, in a June 14, 2013 Interdepartmental Report, the LAPD shared the following example of the advantages of the program:

"For years 2011 and 2012 collectively, there were 226 personnel complaints impacted by DICV. Of those 226 complaints, approximately 92% (207) were exonerated or unfounded. The remaining 8% (19) were sustained. Of the 19 sustained complaints, 10 were sustained for failing to activate the DICV."

Given the positive results from DICV, and the promising experience other police departments are having with body cameras, the LAPD should both continue its roll out of DICV and expedite its evaluation of expanding its program to include body camera technology.



Taser International, Inc., a vendor that already provides equipment and services to the city is a leader in the field of on-officer video and has indicated a willingness to donate its time and resources to a proof of concept study to field test police-worn camera technology.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Los Angeles Police Department work with Taser International, Inc. to immediately begin a proof of concept study to field test police-worn camera technology, identify the styles of body camera to be worn, and take custody of at least 25 units to be tested.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the Los Angeles Police Department identify volunteers to field test this technology from units that do not work a patrol car (i.e. SWAT, K-9, Metro, etc.).

I FURTHER MOVE, that the Los Angeles Police Department report back to the Los Angeles Police Commission and the Public Safety Committee in 90 days with its findings from the field test, recommendations both on the style of body camera to be used, and policy recommendations on how a department-wide body camera program can be implemented, including but not limited to how the department will use video for investigative purposes, internal disciplinary actions, what video is discoverable, and retention period.

PRESENTED BY 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY 

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